

Secret

25X1



DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Central Intelligence Bulletin

DOE review completed.

DIA and DOS review(s) completed.

Secret

50
8 November 1968

Page Denied

No 0308/68
8 November 1968

Central Intelligence Bulletin

CONTENTS

South Vietnam: Situation report. (Page 1)

Communist China - Laos: The Chinese have apparently resumed building roads into Laos. (Page 5)

Korea: A large group of North Korean infiltrators seems trapped in South Korea. (Page 6)

Yemen: A break in royalist ranks may presage an end to the fighting. (Page 7)

Czechoslovakia: There have been more anti-Soviet demonstrations. (Page 9)



25X1

Zambia-Mozambique: The first known clash between the armed forces of black- and white-ruled states in southern Africa has occurred. (Page 11)

Colombia: The rejection of President Lleras' constitutional reform program may bring growing political tensions into the open. (Page 12)



25X6



25X1

Sierra Leone: By-elections (Page 13)



25X1

SECRET

SECRET

[South Vietnam: Communist military activity on 6-7 November was confined to light mortar attacks against a few towns and villages.

Three district towns in the Saigon - III Corps area and civilian hamlets on the outskirts of Quang Ngai and Hoi An were hit with light mortar fire. Casualties were light.

* * * *

A recent survey of Communist intentions in the Mekong Delta points to increased political agitation rather than an upsurge in military activity in the next few months. The delta is traditionally an area of strong Communist influence and control, but the 25 main force and local battalions which comprise the enemy's main military strength in the area do not seem to have recovered from the intensive fighting of Tet. Except for flurries of mortar attacks against provincial towns, some sapper attacks, and occasional heavy resistance to allied sweep operations, these units have not launched any major attacks since Tet.

The large guerrilla force of some 20,000 men appears to be operating largely in support of the Communists' stepped-up political program. The Communist effort to establish "liberation committees" is especially strong in the delta area, and Communist propaganda claims indicate that they intend to blanket the IV Corps area with these committees. These committees probably function only in areas over which the Communists have physical control--an area that includes an estimated 28 percent of the population. Hamlet Evaluation System (HES) data indicate that although the number of people living in relatively secure areas dropped significantly during Tet, the South Vietnamese Government has now recovered almost all the ground held before Tet. **]**

(continued)

SECRET



92686 11-68 CIA

SECRET

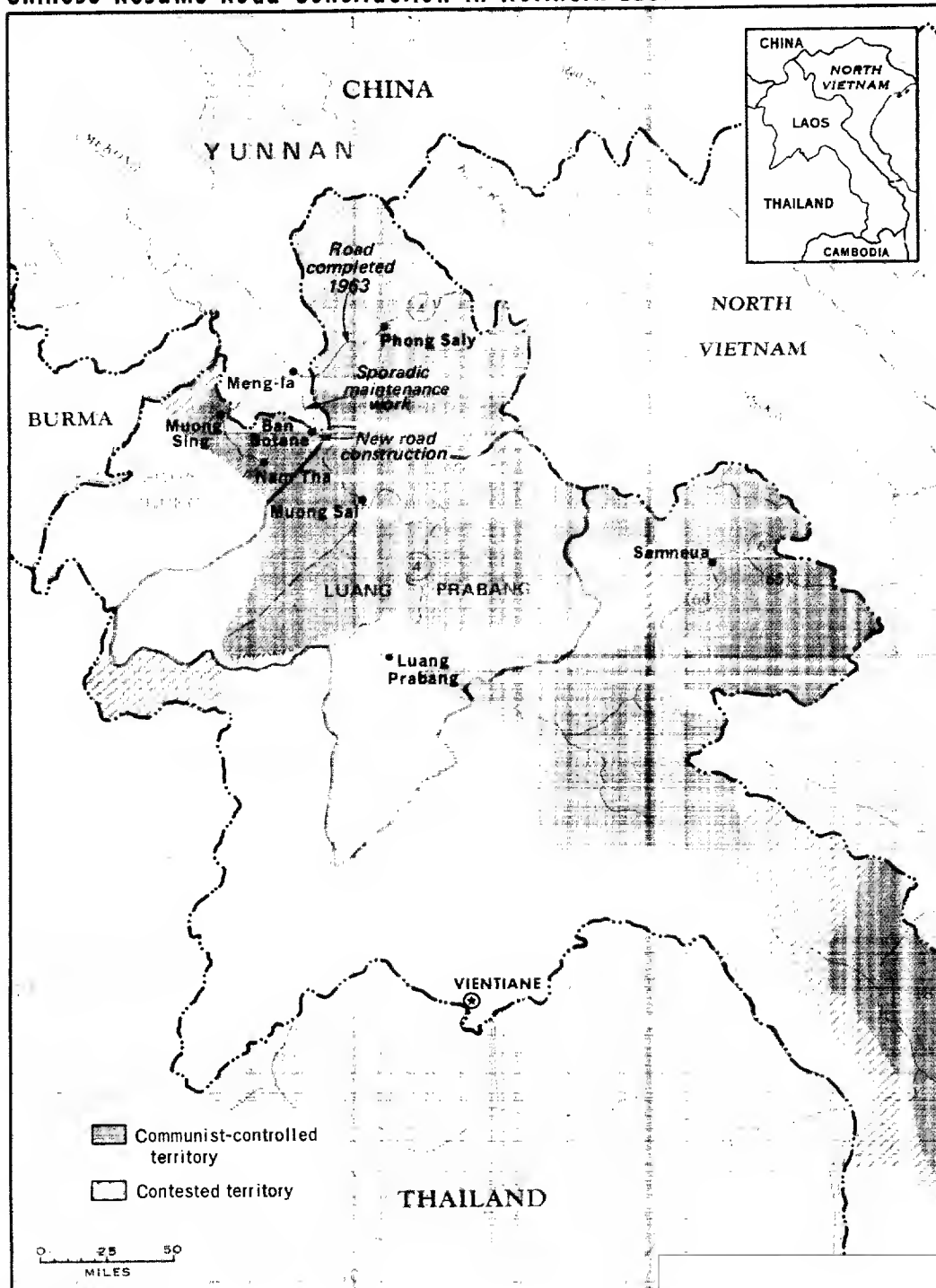
25X1

[There are now 48 US and South Vietnamese maneuver battalions in the delta. They have been engaged in aggressive search-and-destroy operations for several months, supported by extensive air strikes and by artillery and naval units. This sustained pressure on Viet Cong military units has probably contributed to Communist inability to mount major military drives in the delta, but it probably cannot bring about an early enemy collapse. For some time the Communists will be able to conduct hit-and-run mortar attacks, guerrilla raids, terrorism, and political action in this area while they try to rebuild their worn down battalions. The Communists have shown a remarkable ability to regenerate battered combat formations in the past.

25X1

SECRET

Chinese Resume Road Construction in Northern Laos



92681 11-68 CIA

25X1

SECRET

Communist China - Laos: The Chinese have apparently resumed construction of a road from southern Yunnan Province into northern Laos.

[redacted] since early September several thousand Chinese have been working on a road leading southward from the border village of Ban Botene. The laborers apparently are accompanied by Chinese security troops. [redacted] the Chinese have told local officials that the road will continue south to Nam Tha, with one spur heading southeast toward Muong Sai.

25X1

25X1

Roads linking Nam Tha and Muong Sai with China would facilitate the flow of supplies to Pathet Lao troops in remote areas of northern Houa Khong and Luang Prabang provinces that are not connected by road to North Vietnam. The new road construction may be the Communists' reaction to the increased activity of government guerrillas in the area during the past year.

The Chinese have been engaged in intermittent road building in the area under the terms of an agreement reached with Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma in 1962. The current activity is the most significant since 1963, when similar numbers of Chinese laborers were used to complete the Meng-la - Phong Saly road. At that time, the Chinese publicly announced plans to build a road system linking southern Yunnan with larger Laotian villages across the border. Little had been done to carry out this plan, however, except for sporadic work on the Meng-la - Ban Botene section of road by small labor gangs. [redacted]

25X1

SECRET

Korea: The North Korean guerrillas who landed on the South Korean east coast on 3 November appear trapped. More than 15,000 South Korean security forces, including offshore naval units, have blocked possible escape routes. [REDACTED]

25X1

[REDACTED] thus far seven guerrillas have been killed. The roundup is expected to take considerable time because of rugged terrain and bad weather.

The North Korean infiltration attempt appears to be the largest since the Korean war. Another unique aspect was the forced indoctrination of villagers, the first instance of "armed propaganda" since the war. [REDACTED]

SECRET

Yemen: A major break in Yemeni royalist ranks may represent a first step toward an end to the fighting.

On 3 November a prominent royalist tribal leader, Qasim Munassir, agreed to end the fighting around Sana and to merge his tribal forces with those of the republic. [redacted] Munassir was rewarded by being appointed military commander of the eastern zone. In addition a council of elders is to be established before 21 November to discuss changing the name of the Yemeni Arab Republic to something more palatable to the strongly Muslim tribal leaders, such as eliminating the word republic.

25X1

Coming at a time when the republic was facing a new royalist offensive as well as internal disorders in the capital, this change-over by the most tenacious of the royalist leaders must be regarded as more than simple defection. The conditions he extracted from the republicans appear to support this view.

There is no clear evidence, however, that his action is connected with the tenuous peace negotiations which have been dragging on between the two sides [redacted] It is more likely that, as the tribal leaders have become increasingly independent of both royalist and republican governments, they have tended to carry on their own negotiations. A continued trend among royalists in switching allegiance to the republicans could substantially reduce the area of fighting and might result in a general tribal peace. [redacted]

25X6

25X1

AREAS OF ANTI-SOVIET DEMONSTRATIONS IN DOWNTOWN PRAGUE 6-7 NOVEMBER 1968



SECRET

SECRET

Czechoslovakia: There were more anti-Soviet demonstrations in Prague yesterday.

Czechoslovak soldiers and police used force to attempt to break up crowds shouting anti-Russian slogans. The demonstrators included several thousand young people, students, workers, and office employees. The presence of white- and blue-collar workers is a sign of the unusual depth of the anti-Soviet feeling in Prague.

Some of the marchers were apparently demonstrating against their own leaders--including Dubcek--for participating in ceremonies on 6 and 7 November commemorating the anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution.

Early on 7 November there were manifestations of anti-Russian sentiment centering on the Esplanade Hotel, and the police exercised restraint in breaking them up. During the late afternoon and evening the situation deteriorated, especially near the party central committee building, and the police began using their clubs.

The Soviets seem to have been expecting the disturbances. On 5 November the US Army attaché sighted Soviet combat elements 15 kilometers from the city and near the best high-speed roads leading to downtown Prague. He noted some small Soviet units in the outskirts of the city where none had previously been stationed.

Moscow will undoubtedly consider the demonstrations a serious affront. The Soviets will see additional evidence that the Dubcek leadership is either unable or unwilling to live up to its promise to control anti-Soviet manifestations. The Soviets, however, probably intend to intervene with their troops only if the situation gets out of control of the Czechoslovak security forces.

There may be more demonstrations or even street clashes on 10 November, when pro-Soviet party conservatives plan to hold a public rally.

25X1

SECRET

Page Denied

SECRET

Zambia-Mozambique: A clash between Zambian and Portuguese patrols on 6 November may be the first engagement between regular armed forces of black- and white-ruled states in southern Africa.

A Zambian Army patrol ambushed a Portuguese Army patrol just inside Zambia near the Mozambique border. The Zambian patrol commander claims to have killed one and wounded two of the Portuguese, who were looking for Mozambique guerrillas based in Zambia.

Both Lusaka and Lisbon discourage cross-border operations by military units, although occasional Portuguese raids have occurred either accidentally or in hot pursuit. Although the Zambians may exploit the incident for propaganda purposes, both sides probably will try to avoid serious disruption of existing ties. Over the next several years incidents such as this will nevertheless probably increase between the two countries and could adversely affect the chances of working out some accommodation.

25X1

SECRET

SECRET

Colombia: The rejection of President Lleras' constitutional reform program by a Senate committee on 5 November may bring growing political tensions into the open.

The defeat reportedly has caused the resignation of Minister of Government Misael Pastrana, Lleras' closest Conservative Party collaborator in the National Front coalition and a leading contender for the presidency in the 1970 elections. It also points up the growing disaffection between Lleras and a part of his own Liberal Party that resents his high-handed methods and looks to its own political future. Three members of this group joined the opposition in the vote on 5 November, which probably kills the entire reform bill for the legislative session.

The most important reforms covered in the bill are strengthening the executive in relation to the legislative bodies, restoring simple majority rule in congressional voting, increasing presidential power in the economic field, restructuring departmental and municipal governments, and planning for gradual dismantling of the National Front.

Lleras appears to have expected the rebuff and may already have made plans for a longer range approach to accomplish the basic reforms he considers essential to Colombia's development toward political maturity. The US Embassy comments that he seems likely to tailor the remaining 21 months of his administration to live with the failure of the reform bill. However, the possibility has been raised that, because he believes that the dilatory Colombian Congress does not reflect the strong popular support for his program, he might take the extralegal step of calling a national plebiscite on the reforms.

[REDACTED]

25X1

SECRET

NOTES

25X6

* * * *

25X1

25X1

Sierra Leone: Violence is mounting as the country's two tribally and regionally based parties compete in important parliamentary by-elections. Prime Minister Stevens, beset by a fractious army and unable to control extremists in his northern-based party, has made little effort to reconcile the country's divergent political forces. Elections today in parts of the volatile southern half of the country, where opposition political leaders have made blatant appeals to tribalism, could spark widespread clashes.

(continued)

8 Nov 68

Central Intelligence Bulletin

13

SECRET

Page Denied

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied

Secret

Secret